# LONG ISLAND FORUM



Threshing By Treadmill (Story Next Page)

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# LONG ISLAND FODUM

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#### Oldtime Treadmills

The horse-driven treadmill was once widely used on Long Island farms to supply threshing and other machines, by means of a belt, with real horse power. Writing to the Forum a few weeks before his death in 1954, the late Carl Kohler of Glen Cove told of the oldtime contractors who would drive their outfits from farm to farm to do the threshing.

"Such a contractor," wrote Mr. Kohler, from memory, "would hitch his team to a farmwagon, towing the massive threshing machine and behind it, the treadmill. Upon reaching his destination close to the client's spacious barn, the team would be unhitched from the wagon and driven into the treadmill which was made to stand on an incline. So long as the tread was locked the horses might stand still on the inclined tread. After the mill had been belted to the threshing machine, however, the contractor simply unlocked the mechanism which caused the tread to start moving downhill under the weight of the

horses.

"This forced the animals to start walking in order to hold their position, thus keeping the tread in motion which turned the belt that operated the threshing machine. To rest the animals occasionally, the contractor would simply apply the lock that stopped the tread and held it motionless. And when one farmer's threshing was completed, the horses were rehitched to the wagon and the veritable circus train would be off to another job or back home for a well earned night's rest."

Records tell of smaller treadmills being used on some Long Island farms and in various industries in early times. They were made, not for horses, but for goats and sometimes for large dogs. It would be interesting to hear from Forum readers who have further data on this subject.

The Dreikanters of Long Island

"The Sculpturing of Long Island" by Robert R. Coles in the L. I. Forum was particularly interesting to me because of an unusual

Continued on page 208

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# Meandering "Massatayun Creek"

I come from haunts of coot and hern, I make a sudden sally, And sparkle out among the fern, To bicker down a valley.
—Tennyson

A stream on Long Island is seldom old although its bed may be an arcient one. Our freshets, creeks, brooks and occasional rivers are usually the run-off of recent rain or snow, the spillage of slopes and marshy hollows.

Sometimes, in other and distant places where the mountains have not yet worn away, the water itself descends from the melting ice fields of quite remote winters and flows through forests of lodge pole pine and meadows of monkey flowers. It has more sound than our water and, in areas free from erosion, flows green over glacial silt and blue under expansive skies, always filling rivers to the brim and foaming at every rock and bend.

Our South Shore streams rarely descend from heights of more than one hundred feet. They are often edged with mud and mincing in tone, yet pleasurable to know as they trickle over golden gravel or intermingle with cress. So it is with the Massatayun Creek which once rose in Broad Hollow to play in the bed of an ancient fluviatile channel.

In the beginning this creek was formed and sustained in Broad Hollow (just west of Bethpage State Park) by drainage from the Mannetto Hills on the east and from the Hempstead Plains on the west. It ran at the foot of a low sandy bluff through fields fragrant with bayberry and bouncing-bet. At times leaves of aspen, wild cherry, grey birch and maple floated upon it. And in winter snow blew through the jack and pitch pines to canopy its icy banks or create glittering tunnels in which the water flowed darkly.

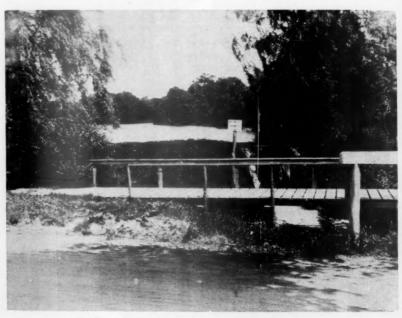
Iris and Alonzo Gibbs

Just north of the house of Christopher Stymus (built about 1768), the stream ran below a slope where oaks, then and to this day, mark the graveyard of the early pioneers. Here, old Christopher himself, who died on January 12th, 1800 at the age of seventy-two, is tangled with their roots, as is Aloha Letty, whose marker reveals that she was only four when she died in 1805.

On past the Stymus house and under Jericho Path (now Central Avenue) the stream ran, shallow and probably not more than ten feet in width, turning southeastward just beyond the house where it was joined by another stream flowing from the Mannetto Hills.

Considerably deeper now the Massatayun reached Whitson's Hollow (presently occupied by the Bethpage Spur of the Southern State Parkway) and flowed amid wild roses and under red, white and black oaks, its simple tones counterpointed by the cooing of wood pigeons. Here, too, bracken, red-olive in color and spicy to smell, grew under the trees along with trillium, sassafras and milk-weed, which burst its pods in season and drifted its helicopter-like seeds above the water's face. Along this line the stream marked the western boundary of Thomas Powell's 1688 Purchase as revealed in his deed of 1695 and determined the eastern bounds of his Rim of Woods Purchase, 1699.

About half-way down the hollow and north of the Massapequa swamp, the Massatayun united with a stream which rose directly south of Hempstead Road (now Hempstead Turnpike) and east of the termination of Jericho Path (now Merritt Road) and also with a creek which rose in "The Slough," a swamp near South Path (Main Street)



Outlet Jones Lake in Massapequa in 1895. Sign Reads "Bicycles Prohibited—The Law"

Farmingdale). Ever deeper and wider, it then flowed through the swamp, where Tories were later to hide during the Revolutionary War, and past the brick house (1696) of Major Thomas Jones, an Irish buccaneer who for a time lay buried beside its winding course. Finally it divided into two "rivers," called by the Indians the Raskabakush and the Pawpanawis, which straightened amid sedge and plume grass to end in the Great South Bay.

But this was the course of the stream during Colonial days, and although men were to come and men were to go not all of the stream, in the words of Tennyson, "went on forever."

In 1841, the expanding Long Island Rail Road struck out across the rolling country-side north of present day Bethpage with the intention of piercing the Mannetto Hills at a point about where the Long Island Agricultural and Technical Institute is now located. An embankment was thrown up for several miles and a cut in the hills was begun.

About this time, however, residents of what is now Bethpage agreed to build a station (Jerusalem Station) if the railroad would change its course and take the easier route through the town and south of the Mannetto Hills to Suffolk Station (seven miles beyond Farmingdale). The proposed route over the Hempstead Plains and the Pine Plains appealed to the directors of the line, for their pick and shovel crews were making little headway with the million-year-old terminal moraine that lay before them, so they abandoned the original plan and turned their tracks southeastward.

This new route necessitated an embankment across Broad Hollow which choked the stream-bed of the Massatayun and caused the descendants of Christopher Stymus to move his old house from the Continued on page 213

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# Sauntering Down Long Island

W HILE many of its minor physical features have changed almost beyond recognition in the last century and a quarter, it is doubtful that there has been any appreciable change in the actual length of Long Island during that time. From the Narrows, at the extreme western end. to Montauk Point is about 118 miles. The difference in latitude between these extremities is approximately 2 degrees, 8 minutes, which indicates that the difference in sundial time amounts to about 81/2 minutes. In other words. the time of sunrise at Montauk is some 8½ minutes earlier than at Ft. Hamilton, and the instant of local apparent noon differs by the same amount. While of extreme importance to navigators and astronomers this fact is of little more than academic interest to the average Long Islander, except that it helps to emphasize the fact that our island is appropriately named.

Although there is little evidence to suggest that this island has diminished in actual length since the first half of the nineteenth century, the rapid advances made in transportation and communication have brought its extremities almost nextdoor to each other.

In the eighteen-thirties one traveling by stage required about three days to complete the journey from Brooklyn to Montauk. Today a motorist, speeding over our modern parkways, may cover the same distance in about as many hours, and a jet plane can make it in less than 12 minutes.

It is obvious to everyone that these great advances in transportation have been a most important factor in bringing about the vast changes that have occurred on Long Island during the last half century.

Robert R. Coles

About the only way we can appreciate what it was like before the appearance of the Iron Horse is by reading the contemporary writings of those who actually lived in those times and made the journey down the island. Very fortunately, such a description is available in Gabriel Furman's quaint volume called, "Antiquities of Long Island." Although not published until 1875, apparently some years after the author's death, this book contains material that he wrote during the first half of the century.

While not completely reliable as a historical reference, this work contains many interesting miscellaneous items concerning early Long Island, one part of which is a description of the author's experiences on a stage coach journey from Brooklyn to the eastern end of the island, probably made during the eighteenthirties. Apparently he did not write it up in its final form until sometime during the eighteen-forties, because he makes the following reference to the railroad: "A

mighty change has been produced in Long Island within the last few years, by the introduction of the railroad; now by its means travellers leave New York City, after breakfasting, and arrive in Boston between five and six o'clock the same evening."

Elsewhere he makes the following observation: "The old mail route is broken up; and now by means of the rail road, and other facilities, we rather fly than stroll through the delightful scenery of this beautiful region." The railroad did not carry passengers and freight to Boston, via ferry from Greenport to the mainland, until the summer of 1844.

In his description Mr. Furman tells us that before the days of the railroad the journey from Brooklyn to the eastern end of the island was made by mail stage. This left Brooklyn at about nine o'clock on Thursday morning.

Those who remember the horse and buggy days of not so long ago can readily appreciate some of the difficulties that must have confronted the traveller on such a journey. Paved highways were un-



Carman Homestead Which Stood Opposite South Haven Church Was a Stage Stop.

known on Long Island in those days and road conditions changed with the seasons. Snow and ice in winter, deep mud in the spring and billowing clouds of dust in the summer added spice to the adventure and sometimes brought operations to a complete standstill.

Leaving Brooklyn after breakfast, the party stopped at Hempstead for dinner and then rode on to Babylon, where they spent the night. This was a good day's journey of nearly 40 miles.

Mr. Furman related: "A most delightful way this was to take a jaunt—there was no hurry, no fuss and bustle about it; no one was in haste to get to his journeys end, and if he was, and intended going the whole route, he soon became effectually cured of it. Every thing went on soberly and judiciously, and you could see all there was to be seen. and hear all there was to be heard, and have time enough to do it all in; no mode of travelling ever suited our taste better; it was the very acme of enjoyment."

I wonder how Mr. Furman would react to our present day methods of travel. Perhaps it is just as well that he did not live to witness them or to experience the other great changes that have occurred along the route that he enjoved travelling so leisurely over a century ago.

On the second morning of the journey the stage left Babylon just after daylight. (an early hour in the summertime), and drove to Patchoque, where breakfast was served between nine and ten o'clock. This was a hearty meal and calculated to stave off the pangs of hunger until evening, as there were no more stops for refreshment

He mentions that the stage made a stop at a rural post office at Fire Place, which was situated a few miles east of Patchogue. This is indi-cated on the map in Thomp-son's "History of Long Island", second edition, published in 1843, as is the other community of the same name on the south fluke.

In reference to this stop Furman wrote as follows: "here, if you have a taste for the beautiful in nature, you would walk down to the garden to look at the trout stream filled with speckled beauties. Here you need give yourself no uneasiness about being left by the stage, as is the case in some of the go-ahead parts of the country — in this particular region the middle of the road is sandy, and the driver, like a considerate man, gives his horses an opportunity to rest, so they may the better

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# Overland Boat Ride of 1814

THE people of the villages between Babylon and Brooklyn saw a strange sight one July day in 1814 - a whaleboat mounted on a farmwagon, containing ten jolly sailors. It was preceded by a carriage containing a naval officer. To get the story behind this strange sight, I consulted three books — Thompson's and Ross's histories of Long Island, and the International Encyclopedia. The latter book told so much of interest about the man in the carriage, Captain David Porter, that I decided to relate some of his earlier history.

Captain Porter was born in Boston in 1780, the son of an admiral in The American Navy, and the sea was certainly in his blood. At an early age he shipped on merchant vessels and was twice impressed by the British, but each time escaped. In 1798 he joined the navy, being made a lieutenant. He fought in the war against the pirates of Tripoli, was captured when our ship Philadelphia was taken and remained a prisoner until the end of that war.

Kate Wheeler Strong

In the first year of the War of 1812, he became commander of the frigate Essex of thirty-two guns. He captured several British merchant ships, and the following year went to the Pacific, rounding the Horn as the Straits of Magellan were infested with savages.

On the Pacific, after harassing British whaling vessels, he was blockaded at Valparaiso by the English vessels Phoebe of thirty-six guns, and Cherub of twenty guns. Porter made them a sporting proposition to take them on one at a time, but the British, believing their enemy in their grasp, refused. Porter then tried to escape but in skirting a headland ran into a squall which carried away a sail and drowned several men. Returning to the harbor, there, after a bloody battle of two hours, he was obliged to surrender.

The British put him on parole, gave him a small vessel, which he called the Essex, Jr., and allowed him to start for the States. After a voyage of

seventy-three days, they were stopped by the British ship Saturn. Fearing capture early the next morning, Porter and ten men escaped in a whale-boat. After rowing and sailing about sixty miles, they managed to enter Fire Island Inlet.

Here they came upon one James Mountfort who piloted them across the bay to Babylon. But there Stephen B. Nichols took them for British in disguise. "Very well," said Captain Porter, "I will surrender to you," and handed him his iron cutlass. When Porter displayed his commission, however, Babylonites could not do enough for him.

The best horse and carriage were placed at his disposal; the whaleboat was mounted on a farmwagon; the sailors climbed aboard, and the triumphal procession started for Brooklyn Navy Yard. There the heroes were accorded a mighty welcome and thus ended happily what must have been one of the strangest processions Long Island ever witnessed.



Nat Conklin Homestead at Babylon, Still Standing, Was New in 1814

#### The Dreikanters of Long Island

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discovery I had made some years ago. For many years I spent a great deal of leisure time walking along the shores of the Great South Bay near the Moriches in search of the implements made by prehistoric man; though I can assure you I found very little there as compared to what I had found on Long Island's north shore.

One day, much to my surprise, I found what I at first thought to be a partially-chipped axe. It was approximately 7"x 4"x 1" and of a green granite-type stone; its indentations, that I first took for chipping, seemed to have been worn smooth by water action. Finding of this "axe" encouraged me to search that area more thoroughly in the hopes of finding other artifacts for substantiation. In that respect I was unsuccessful, but I did find some very unusual stones. These were of various shapes and sizes but everyone had this outstanding similarity—half of every stone was still in its natural state, while the other side would be cut with two facets (plane surfaces) coming to a sharp edge, while some had three facets coming to a point similar to a pyramid. At that time I won-

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Monumental Work

dered whether prehistoric man could have used them for rubbing

could have used them for rubbing stones, yet some of the stones seemed too small for that purpose. As the years rolled by, whenever I went to this place, I always selected some of the finer pieces for my collection; and then one day I had a happy thought to send a few of the stones as well as the de-tails of the "find" to the New York Museum at Albany, N. Y. The response to this action was more than gratifying to me, and I shall now quote a few lines from the correspondence that resulted: Nov. 29, 1939. Dear Mr. Baker:

"I believe that our Dr. written you his thanks for the samples of glacial stones which he says are excellent examples of wind erosion. They are beautiful specimens and will be a valuable addition to our exhibits."

Dec. 22, 1939. Dear Mr. Baker: "The more I contemplate these glacial quartzite and granitic stones planed so perfectly by what must have been immeasurably powerful wind blasts with enormous amounts of drifting sand for abrasives, I begin to faintly appreciate the vast desert of raw earth and furious shifting storms along the stark ice front

"I think you have discovered a wonderful mine and hope you can keep it to yourself for a time until you care to have it studied by a geologist."

"Will you show me the place, sometime next season? I have no

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designs on it, — more than a worshipper before Nature's shrine." Sept. 26, 1940. Dear Mr. Baker: "In regard to exhibiting the ma-

terials under your name as donor, I have the following suggestion to make: If you will send on the col-lection I will be glad to make a special exhibit of it for a year or so, indicating that the specimens had been donated by you. After this period I would select about a half dozen of the best specimens and exhibit them permanently with your name as donor."

Oct. 11, 1940. Dear Mr. Baker: "The Ronkonkoma moraine, which stretches the length of Long Island, represents a heap of debris piled up along the front of the great glacier when it covered all of the north shore of Long Island, the territory now occupied by Long Island Sound, and New England. When the glacier had receded to the vicinity of Cape Cod similiar moraines were formed. Sand and gravel were spread in front of the Continued on page 210

#### L. I. FORUM INDEX

The Queens Borough Public Library, 89-14 Parsons Blvd., Jamaica, sells a complete index of maica, sells a complete index of the Long Island Forum for the years 1938-1947 inclusive, at \$1 postpaid. Also for the years 1948-1952 inclusive, at 50 cents post-paid. They were compiled by Miss Marguerite V. Doggett, Librarian L. I. Collection, and may be ob-tained by addressing her at the Library. Library.

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# College Point's Unusual Past

THE past summer another link between College Point and its fantastic past succumbed to the wrecker when the Frohlich estate passed into the hands of a building contractor. Although one of the smaller estates that existed in this community, it was probably the only one that had survived for over eighty years in its entirety.

At the present, College Point, having a population exceeding 17,700, is seldom heard of and does not strike any familiar chord when mentioned. But the situation was completely different before World War I.

Occupying a broad peninsula on the north shore of Queens Borough, the former village could trace its beginnings to 1645 when Flushing was founded. In that year sixteen Englishmen were granted a patent by New Netherlands to an area bounded by Flushing Creek on the west, Little Neck Bay on the east and the hills of Jamaica to the south. Tews Neck, jutting into the East River near Flushing Creek, became part of the large holdings of William Lawrence (one of the original patentees) who established his residence there. At that time a tremendous tidal marsh of over 550 acres to the neck's south and east allowed it to be entered only by way of Whitestone.

After Wm. Lawrence's death in 1680, Tews Neck became divided among several descendants who also built their homes there. After the Revolution, about 1787, 350 acres of the neck were sold to Eliphalet Stratton, whose ancestors settled in East Hampton in 1649. With the passage of part of the neck outside of the Lawrence family, the name was changd to Strattonport. By 1830 more of the

Robert C. Friedrich

Lawrence holdings were sold providing the nucleus for an agricultural community.

In 1836 Rev. William A. Muhlenberg founded St. Paul's College which opened two years later in several wooden buildings, instead of the brick Classical Revival structure originally planned. With this event, the community was named College Point; but it wasn't until its incorporation as such in 1867 that the name of Strattonport was dropped altogether. The college operated until 1846 when Dr. Muhlenberg left to become rector of the Church of the Holy Communion built by his sister in Manhattan. He later founded St. Luke's Hospital there.

In 1854 Conrad Poppenhusen initiated a new era for the village when he moved his hard rubber factory from

Williamsburgh, Brooklyn to this farming region. Originally from Germany, Mr. Poppenhusen had come to this country in 1843 when his father's whalebone factory burned in the Hamburgh conflagration. Starting at first in Jersey Cityy, he later moved his factory to Brooklyn. Meanwhile he had become interested in producing an artificial whalebone, resulting in a friendship with Charles Goodyear who had just received a patent for making India rubber. Conrad loaned him large sums to maintain his patent claims, receiving in turn monopoly privileges in the production of hard rubber articles such as combs.

With the opening of the Enterprise Rubber Works, the village began to boom. Immigration of skilled workmen from Germany was en-

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Stepping Stones Lighthouse Near West End of Sound

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glacier all during this time. Cold winds blowing down over the frayed margins of the ice blew sand across the larger stones at many places to produce the ventifacts. Some of them were even picked up by later rushes of meltwater and buried in gravel layers along with many stones that show no wind-cutting."

no wind-cutting."
"When these ventifacts were
first discovered from Martha's
Vineyard and Nantucket there were
some who taught that they were
Indian relics."

Through this correspondence I learned that specimens had also been found on a stretch between Far Rockaway and Lynbrook but apparently were not such good examples of wind erosion. All such ventifacts are usually called "dreikanter" owing to the fact that they frequently show three plane surfaces intersecting in a sharp edge. What more can I say about my dreikanters? Unfortunately the

What more can I say about my dreikanters? Unfortunately, the place where I originally found them is now no longer accessible. As Mr. Coles would say, "sculpturing" still at work, had cut new inlets into the Bay, raising its general level and covering that site by two or three feet of somewhat dirty water. Perhaps, some day, another storm will wash away much of the debris that probably covers many other dreikanters and expose them to our view. It certainly has been a long 25,000 years. John W. Baker

#### Kipling, Shinnecocks, Hercules

Huntington

This past summer I got interested in Rudyard Kipling's life in Vermont. The topic took me to Springfield, Mass., to find a particular article published in the Springfield Republican. Searching for the article, I ran across this obituary:

"William Bunn, who died a few days ago near Southampton, Long Island, was the last full-blooded Indian of the Shinnecock tribe. The Shinnecocks claimed the territory from Canoe Place to Southampton, including Sag Harbor, and the south shore of Peconic Bay. The name of the tribe has been perpetuated in the Shinnecock Hills, which begin at Canoe Place and extend to Southampton." — Springfield Republican, Saturday, Feb. 27, 1892.

Martha Bockee Flint in a footnote in her Early Long Island maintains: "The last of the Shinnecocks of pure blood, Daniel died in October, 1894."

Charles A. Huguenin
New York
Note: In much more recent years
Continued on next page

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Kipling, Shinnecock, Hercules Continued from page 210

than the Gay Nineties, newspapers occasionally reported the death of a "full-blooded" Shinnecock, each in turn having been called the last of that tribe. Just



Sketched by Geo. R. Avery

how long ago the last full-blooded Shinnecock passed to the Happy Hunting Grounds is a matter of much conjecture among students.

Whalers Took Chances

Whaling was an extremely hazardous business, and the history of Long Island whalers is replete with lives sacrificed in the dangerous pursuit. Over a period of some 200 years, more than 1000 lives were lost in the whale fishery industry. While shipwrecks accounted for many casualties, accidents in performance of duty also exacted a heavy toll. Often a harpooned threshing, mammal would drag a whaleboat at lightning speed, and then with a flip of its tail overturn the craft with resultant serious injury and loss of life to the crew. Nevertheless, once a whaleship was outfitted for an expedition willing "hands" seemed ever ready to sign up for the voyage.

Despite the rigors of whaling, some survived many, many perilous voyages to finally meet death in mundane accidents ashore. Such was the case of Capt. James Madi-

Continued next page

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Whalers Took Chances Continued from page 211

son Tabor, who had made innumerable whaling trips around the globe only to suffer an apparently minor accident at home. The rugged whaler was harvesting fruit from a tree barely 9 feet high, when he fell to the ground and sustained a broken wrist. However, complications developed, and Capt. Tabor succumbed to lock jaw.

As in most any calling, whaling had its humor as well as pathos. Back in 1916, while awaiting a train in New London, Conn., I

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struck up conversation with an old salt from Salem. He had, he informed me, been steward on several whaling expiditions and without too much prompting, proceeded to discuss the topic. A young blade at that time, I evinced a deal of interest in those South Sea island girls of storied fame.

The old man's eyes sparkled as he apprised me of their pulchitrude in glowing terms:—"Right perty, son — them gals was perty as a picture!" In fun, I ventured to inquire whether the girls' beauty, perchance, might not have been the reason for many a tardy return voyage. He pointed his pipe at me, then drawled: "Wa-al, son—yessir,



Whalers Monument, Sag Harbor

son — us Salemites allus sailed straight for home with our bone and blubber. But them New Bedford fellers (here he winked broadly) — they was a caution! After they'd been to them islands, why they jes' hove to out there in the Gulf Stream a spell to adjus' their New England consciences 'fore goin' home."

When I casually mentioned some of my forebears were whalers, he hastily interjected that he had no doubt Long Island whalers emulated the example set by Salem ships! I am sure they did. At least, probably very few had to heave to out in the Gulf to resume their good Long Island consciences. The rest, no doubt, put straight for home with their "bone and blubber!"

In those days, before the hustle and bustle of our electronic age, the whalers were mainly a Godfearing class of men who consistently built youth into strong manhood and future leaders of America. On long, lonely voyages, stand-

ing night watches under the vigil of the stars, most men must have felt close to their Creator.

Wilson L. Glover Southold

#### Corrections, Babylon

May I correct a couple of small errors? The mate of the whaling bark Monmouth, who was in charge of the rescue of the Meridian's people from Amsterdam Island on Sept. 6, 1853 was William S. Brower of Babylon and not Martin Brower. A nephew of his, Howard Pettit is still living here. After

Continued on page 217



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### "Massatayun Creek" Continued from page 204

floor of the hollow to higher ground along its western rim. Although a culvert under the tracks was added, the headwaters of the stream settled back into a marshy area and were later almost eliminated by Vanderbilt's Motor Parkway which entered the hollow

in 1908.

South of the main line tracks, however, the other branches of the stream continued to flow until highways, homes and farms diverted the surface water elsewhere. Today the stream winds only from Boundary Avenue, Plainedge, south to a lake created by David S. Jones in 1836 through use of a dam at present day Merrick Road. Beyond the spillway, one of the old Indian rivers (the other is now a dredged canal) flows brackishly southward, rippling through eelgrass or

samphire and eventually ebbing with the outgoing tides through the dreens of the bay to the sea.

### Sauntering Down L. I. Continued from Page 206

travel through this piece of heavy road. You might, therefore, after enjoying yourself at this spot, walk on leisurely ahead of the stage, with a friend, and some one who is conversant with the country and its legends, and this walk would prove by no means the least pleasant part of your excursion, for many are the tales that you would hear of awful shipwrecks, of pirates and their buried wealth, of treasures cast up by the sea, and of all those horrors and wonders of which the ocean is the prolific parent."

At the end of the second day the mail stage reached Quogue, where the travellers partook of their evening meal and spent the night. Starting off shortly after daybreak on the third morning, the stage continued to Southampton, where the party stopped for breakfast and then departed for Sag Harbor, which they reached in time for the noontime meal. After a leisurely repast the stage "would travel on to its final destination at Easthampton, arriving there just before sunset on Saturday afternoon, thus occupying nearly three days to traverse a distance of one hundred and ten miles; but most pleasant days they were, and the water itself descends from no one has ever tried this mode of journeying through Long Island who had pleasure in view, who did not wish to try it again."

Mr. Furman does not tell how one reached Montauk from Easthampton, but I suppose that was accomplished in private stage. He made the

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journey in summer and under favorable conditions. Little imagination is required to picture what it must have been like at other times of the year when the weather was less

cooperative.

In reference to the delivery of mail he wrote as follows: "One morning on our journey down the island, we came to an old tree standing at the intersection of two roads, with a box fastened to it without a lock, this was the post office of that district; our driver deposited in it the letters and papers for that place, and took out those intended for carriage farther east. These were the mail arrangements on Long Island even at that late period, and yet no instance was known of any letter or paper having miscarried. But those things are all now passed, and such a jaunt can never again be taken; the old mail route is broken up, and now, in place of travelling soberly along, we, by means of railroads and turnpikes fly rapidly through the island.'

Thus did Gabriel Furman describe his leisurely journey down Long Island in the early eighteen-thirties, an experience that can only be ima-

gined today.

#### College Point

Continued From Page 209

couraged so that a year later the population was already



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18 Deer Park Ave. Babylon Tel. MOhawk 9-0927 1,150. Mr. Poppenhusen had a causeway built across the marshes to Flushing in '57, and, starting in '51, a steamship line of a Mr. Flammer connected the village with Manhattan. Churches and a fire company were organized and the village got a post office.

By 1860 the predominantly Germanic populace had created a transplanted German town resplendant with summer Biergartens and hotels, attracting many visitors from Manhattan. In fact the Rev. G. H. Mandeville had this to say in 1860 "Perhaps it ill be-

fits us to point out the delinquencies of our sister village, but a due regard for historical truth, compels us to add that a rigid observance of the Sabbath is not one of its commendable excellencies. theaters are said to be in full blast every Sunday evening, and its twelve Lager Beer Saloons, are reputed to do a thriving business on this day. This favorite beverage of the German, is here made. In the summer months not unfrequently do we see flags flying from its many places of public resort, hear bands of music, and occasionally listen

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to the tread of military visitors from the city, on the Sabbath day. Are such innovations upon our American customs consistent with the institutions of our land, or with the divine Law?"

The following decades brought continuing prosperity, so that by 1900 there existed a manufacturing village dominated by breweries, silk mills, rubber works and florists. News articles of the '70's show that the village was busy installing new roads, paving old ones, building sewers, planting trees and providing for fresh water to be piped from Flushing's Kissena Lake region.

Though various lines of manufacturing were established, the village's rural beauty was not impaired. In fact, the village presented a paradoxical union of factories, wealthy estates, large summer resorts, private schools and factory workers' homes.

The development of extensive resort facilities was attributable to several circumstances. In the latter half of the 19th Century it was quite fashionable to week-end and excursion to the peaceful countryside beyond the city limits. Not only did College Point present the excursionist with beautiful scenery and the festivity of the Old World, but it was easily accessible by a short steamboat trip. In 1869 the village was able to be reached by rail when Mr. Poppenhusen, who became president of the LIRR upon its consolidation in 1876, was instrumental in having the Flushing & Woodside line completed to the village.

By the 1880's Manhattanites referred to the village as "Little Heidelberg". In 1871 a news article read: "The Glorious Fourth was celebrated at College Point in a very pleasant way. The village was crowded with thousands of excursionists from New York, every train and steamboat adding their fresh quotas to the swelling numbers. . . . Among the many places which were thronged on that day, were the College

Point Woods, Max. Pfortner, proprietor, where a good band discoursed fine music, and where there was dancing in the evening. . . . The day closed with a general display of fireworks . . ."

The two greatest resorts were Donnelly's Boulevard Hotel and Witzel's Point View Island. Donnelly's hotel had facilities for picnics, excursions, clambakes; the largest dancing pavilion on L.I.; large dining rooms, bowling alleys,

Continued on page 217



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#### New Face in the Art Field

Toune is a signature just appearing on the horizon of commercial art and on the way up. She is Francois Prunier of Paris and London who, in her teens, reversed the usual trend and came from Paris to New York to study at the celebrated Traphagen School of Fashion.

She made her American debut recently in Esquire with an amusing cartoon—and there are more of these to come. She is designing book jackets for the publisher, Collins of London. She is also creating advertising pages in Vogue and Harpers Bazaar for such world renowned firms as Boucheron and Yardley.

Menus also fall into her metier—quite naturally, since the business of epicurean food and wines is a Prunier family heritage.

Francoise Prunier turns her talented hand to Christmas card design too, as another phase of her free-lance career . . . while engaged simultaneously in a full-time job in Paris.

When she arrived home from New York, after finishing her one-



Francois Prunier

year course, she found that her mother had written her down for the entrance competition for the French Government School of Les Arts Appliques where but few seats are available. She passed number five on the list—a great honor for her and the Traphagen School.

On finishing her studies, she thought of fashion design, her first love as her natural career. However, when the Rodiers of the famous textile house, saw some of her work they immediately suggested fabric design, and this has been her career since that time . . . she produces designs for such celebrated fabric makers as Bianchini-Ferrier. Ducharne and Staaron.

Ferrier, Ducharne and Staaron. But Toune, the free-lance artist, has been chafing at the bit and is now branching out, reaching for the international recognition she is just beginning to receive. From her anything may be expected... from sophisticated advertising to sheer beauty, from caricature to delightful illustrations for children's books. The little-girl name of Toune may soon be well-known on two continents.

I find perfectly intriguing (in October issue) "Trip to St. Louis in 1850" by Kate Wheeler Strong, and "Tangier Smith and His Manor" by Chester G. Osborne. Capt. Griffing's "Two Fishermen of 1895" abounds in interest as well as information. Margaret V. Wall, Director, Suffolk Museum, Stony Brook.



#### College Point

Continued from Page 215

pool rooms, boating and bathing facilities, baseball and football grounds, a photograph gallery, swings and a shooting gallery. Teddy Roosevelt announced his candidacy for the New York State Legislature here.

Point View was situated on a tidal island to the north of the village. The main building housed three great bars, one of them being 75 feet long. Many of the outings that Point View handled required 25 cooks who prepared 12 steers, 300 dozen eggs, 50 hams, 2000 to 3000 eels, 1000 lbs. of clams at one time. On a Sunday in 1903 it broke all records by serving 16,122 persons at a clambake.

The Brooklyn Daily Eagle Summer Resort Directory for that year said: "Perhaps no suburb of the boroughs of Brooklyn or Manhattan attracts a greater number of popular club and outing excursions than College Point."

But social change and technological advancement ended it all. The auto was to terminate the popularity of the steamships, while World War I and Prohibition put an end to the resorts. Synthetic fibers doomed the silk mills. Other factories closed or moved away and the estates of their owners went for home development. The village was engulfed by the growing metropolitan area. Today the beauty is gone and only fading memories remain.

#### Corrections, Babylon Continued from page 212

Mr. Brower retired from the sea he owned and sailed a party boat here. I believe I wrote the original story on this for the Forum some years ago. A little item in the New York Sun led me to write to Cold Spring Harbor and I got most of the story from there

of the story from there.

Second, in the matter of the nine necks of land mentioned in all the Babylon Town Patents, this paragraph does not mean there are only nine necks on the south side, it refers to those necks purchased from the Indian proprietors. The tenth neck, Sumpawams, was purchased in 1689. There are ten main

necks on the south side, fronting on the bay. I am aware that Mrs. Romanah Sammis in her Huntington-Babylon history shows eleven, but one does not touch the bay. There is also a neck, the east part of Little East, I think it is called Annuskemunnica, there's quite a settlement on it, this does not hit the bay either. In the little booklet, Babylon Town Patents, by William G. Nicoll, one time Supervisor, he relates how he found that while all three original patents read, "On the South by the Sea, Including there nine severall necks of land," the printed copies in the Huntington Town Records in the Dongan and Fletcher patents, used the word therein—and not there.

printer, but obviously if correct it would make quite a difference. James E. Tooker, Town Historian, Babylon

#### Eaton's Neck Pamphlet

Among the nuggets of your esteemed Forum for September, my interest was further aroused by your note on Miss Mary Voyse's pamphlet on Eaton's Neck. My interest stems not only from the fact that I collect such material but that my father was a member of the U.S. Life Saving Service, at Eaton's Neck, prior to 1900 when we were living at Northport where I was born.

Cornell Mulford, President Oyster Bay Historical Society

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required by the Act of August 24, required by the Act of August 24, 1912, as amended by the Acts of March 3, 1933, and July 2, 1946, showing the ownership, management, etc. of the Long Island Forum, published monthly at Amityville, N. Y., for October,

The name and address of the publisher and editor is Paul Bailey, Amityville, N. Y.
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The known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders
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Paul Bailey, Publisher Sworn to and subscribed before me this 29th day of September, 1955.

Hugo C. Waldau, Jr.
Notary Public
My commission expires March 30, 1957.

#### Founders Rock Inscription

I recently read Dr. William O. Stevens' "Discovering Long Island", published I believe in 1939, and found a number of errors. He quotes the inscription on Founders



Rock in Southampton town, evidently from memory, for he gives it as claiming Southampton to be the oldest settlement in the State.

I took photographs several years ago of the rock, including a closeup of the bronze plaque which reads as follows: "Near this spot, in June 1640, landed colonists from Lynn, Massachusetts, who founded South-hampton, the oldest English settle-ment in New York State."

Dr. Stevens omitted the word "English". The Dutch were earlier

by some years, both in the State and on Long Island. The glacial boulder bearing the

inscription stands on a point of meadowland in North Sea harbor, on Peconic Bay, about five miles northwest of the village of South-ampton. The place is known as Conscience Point, from the tradition that a woman member of the settling group exclaimed upon reaching shore: "For conscience sake, we're on dry land once more". John Tooker

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#### Correction, Gardiners

The article, "Two Fishermen of 1895", by Captain Eugene Stanley Griffing, in the October Forum, is very interesting but he implies that Miss Sarah Diadoti Gardiner was a niece of John Lyon Gardiner who was proprietor of Gardiner's Island at the time Captain Griff-ing called there. That is not true. This John Lyon Gardiner and Sarah were cousins.

Nelson C. Osborne East Hampton

"Fox Oaks" in 1825

Gabriel Furman's "Long Island Antiquities" describes the Fox Oaks, which stood near the Bowne House, as he saw them in 1825, as follows: "Among the ancient remains may be reckoned the two venerable oak trees at Flushing. under the shade of which the fa-mous George Fox preached in 1672. I visited these trees, August 4, 1825, in company with Messrs. Sponner and Bruce, and assisted Bruce in measuring them which we did around the trunk, six feet from the ground. We found one to be thirteen feet in circumference

and the other twelve feet, four inches in circumference."

Mr. Robert Coles' article in the Forum for August on "Early Quakers and Mighty Oaks" is very enlightening. I have clipped it for our files My congretulations for ening tening. I have clipped it for our files. My congratulations to Mr. Coles and best wishes for the joy that comes to the person who does work like his. (Miss) Margaret Carman Bowne House, Flushing

The article in this (August) number by Dr. Huden about William Wallace Tooker is excellent, and the picture is a living likeness. Cornelius R. Sleight, Chapel Hill, N.C. (formerly of Sag Harbor).

Congratulation on all the won-derful work you have done and do for Long Island and American history. Dorothy Horton McGee, Roslyn Heights. Note: Miss McGee, a descendant of Southold's Barnbas Horton, is the author of the recent book "Famous Signers of the Declaration." Editor.

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